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MUCH MARCLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
Tuesday 1st July, 7.30pm in The Rushall Club

Present: Cllrs M Barber-Starkey; J Baldwin; D Griffiths; F Powell; E Jefferson; S Cotton

In attendance: Rachel Freestone – Clerk
Barry Durkin – Ward Member
David Beckett – Footpath Officer

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1. To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllrs A Hope; Tim Weston; Elliot Thomas.

2. To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items:

Cllr Barber-Starkey declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 9a.

3. Open Session:

a. To receive a report from the Ward Councillor:

Ward Member Durkin ran through his Ward Report for July 2025 which can be found in full on the Much Marcle Parish Council website. A member commented that the scheduled Highways work for the 29th/30th June was completed a week earlier which caused problems. **It was RESOLVED:** Clerk to email Ward Member Durkin so that he can report.

A Member of the public mentioned that the road between Marcle and Rushall is full of holes and is an ongoing issue. Ward Member Durkin explained that every road in the county is assessed once a year. There will be a number of roads which meet the criteria necessary for work to be completed by the contractor, Tarmac, currently unsure which roads they will be. A member commented that the road from Rushall to Kynaston was resurfaced last year and that had been in better repair. It was explained that the tests also check what lies beneath the surface. Water run-off from neighbouring fields causes problems in the parish, this is the responsibility of the Landowners. A member added that there are a couple of areas which flood where it is unclear who has ownership. There are also pipes clogged with clay which cause slow drainage. A member expressed concern over Piccadilly Bridge which has been regularly patched and there are concerns it will crack. **It was RESOLVED:** To communicate with Ward Member Durkin to investigate. To report all these issues with the Locality Steward.

Ward Member Durkin informed that there is a cabinet member looking at flood areas across the county.

b. To receive representations from the public:

A member of the public commented on the condition of Piccadilly Bridge. There are further areas of flooding concern where water is not draining into ditches. It was agreed that these areas need to be added to the Parish Council Flooding report. **It was RESOLVED:** Flood Working Group to add them.

A member asked if it would be worthwhile inviting Neil James, the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward, to a meeting. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to invite him.

4. Minutes:

- a. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on the 14th May 2025. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record. They were duly signed by the Chair.
- b. Members considered the confidential minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on the 14th May 2025. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record. They were duly signed by the Chair.
- c. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Extra Meeting held on the 18th June 2025. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record. They were duly signed by the Chair.

5. To review the following policies for Much Marcle Parish Council:

- a. Members considered the Finance Working Group which was approved noting that Cllr Baldwin will complete the Internal Control Checks for 2025/26.
- b. Risk Register: **It was RESOLVED:** To approve with the addition of external support.

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- c. Risk Management Policy: **It was RESOLVED:** to approve for 2025/26 with no changes.

6. Assets:

- a. Members considered the letter from Much Marcle Primary School. **It was RESOLVED:** the parish council fund the Bartons Field annual tree survey for 2025/26 and request a meeting with the Headteacher to agree a way forward. The chain fence at the back of the Bartons which the school installed to be discussed at this meeting.
- b. Members received an update on the condition of the bus shelter and any remedial work required. In his absence Cllr Griffiths informed members that the work will be completed in the next three months.
- c. Members considered the three quotes for replacement batteries and pads for the Defib at the Rushall Club due 01/8/25. **It was RESOLVED:** Clerk to order from the cheapest supplier.

7. Hills Ford Rally:

- a. Members NOTED the response sent to HCC following the collection of household responses.

8. Finance

- a. Members considered the Budget versus Actuals report to June 2025. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the report with comment that all is in order with minimal transactions at this time.
- b. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Balances for May and up to 26th June 2025 with a total balance of £36252.17. Cllr Baldwin as a non-bank signatory duly checked and signed the bank statements, invoices and bank reconciliation as a true record.
- c. Members considered the Finance Working Group recommendation for Cllr Jefferson to become a fourth signatory. **It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Jefferson approved as a Unity Bank signatory.
- d. Members considered the transfer of £150 from general reserve to the defibrillator budget and earmarked reserve. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the transfer.
- e. Members considered the insurance quotes and cover for 2025-26 circulated previously. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve cover through Zurich direct as long as the third quote, when received, is not as competitive. The Clerk to ask Zurich if they can quote for a 3yr LTA. The Clerk to ask Community First for a quote with improved volunteer cover.
- f. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the following invoices for payment:
- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| • MMMH Hall Hire - May | £15.00 |
| • HALC Internal Audit Fee | £275.00 net/£330 gross |
| • PATA Payroll Arrears Calculation | £15.00 |
| • Clerk expenses Microsoft Licence June | £10.30 net/£12.36 gross |
| • Herefordshire County Council (Awards for All) | £4000 |
- g. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following regular payments made between meetings:
- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| • Clerk Salary April/May and June to incl. PAYE | As per contract |
| • Unity Bank Fee May/June | £12.00 |
- h. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following payments made between meetings:
- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| • Clerk expenses – Printer Ink | £20.59 net/£24.71 gross |
| • Councillor expenses – grass seed Bartons Field | £10.82 net/£12.99 gross |
- i. Members NOTED income received:
- | | |
|---|----------|
| • VAT refund | £1792.17 |
| • Payment for 1 x stile from Ledbury Rugby Club | £252.00 |
- j. Members NOTED virements made between Unity Accounts:
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------|
| • Instant Access to Current | 15.05.25 | £5500 |
| • Instant Access to Current | 24.06.25 | £1000 |
| • Current to Instant Access | 17.06.25 | £2000 |

9. Planning:

8.30pm MBS left the room

- a. Members considered the Planning Application for Determination by Herefordshire Council:

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- 251746 Walwyn Court, Much Marcle. Proposed Pole Barn Building. **It was RESOLVED:** To Support with the consideration that suitable materials are to be used and sympathetic planting used to screen the building.

8.35pm MBS returned to the meeting

- b. Members NOTED that there was no Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers.
- c. Members NOTED the planning decision made by Herefordshire Council:
 - 250518 The Bounds Proposed variation of conditions 16 & 20. Withdrawn.

10. Much Marcle Memorial Hall

- a. Cllr Baldwin commented that there is nothing to report at this time.

11. Highways/Footpaths:

- a. Members received an update on the Footpath Regeneration project from the Footpaths Officer, David Beckett. Cllr Weston has spoken with the landowners to request access to install a gate in the field from Homme House. The ground is too hard currently to install the 20 new gates. The vast majority of the remaining Lottery funding will be needed for the materials to install these gates.
- b. There was nothing further to report from the Footpaths Group.
- c. Members NOTED the request to West Mercia Police to add two further members to the Community Speedwatch Group. There are sufficient members currently with this deferred to review in the Autumn. **It was RESOLVED:** to request a report from the Speedwatch group in September.
- d. Members considered the application for the Local Drainage Fund and need to bring in the additional areas raised at this meeting. **It was RESOLVED:** the Flood Working Group to complete the report in August and submit asap, the application needs to be submitted by the 28th September.
- e. There were no further items to be considered from the Highways Working Group.

12. Correspondence:

- Members considered the notification from HALC of the withdrawal of NDP funding.
- Draft Motion calling government to provide dedicated funding for Neighbourhood Plans. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the draft motion.
- Draft letter to the local MP with regards to funding for Neighbourhood Plans. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the submission of the draft letter.

A Member asked if it would be worth contacting Ellie Chowns MP with regards to the extent of the flooding issues. **It was RESOLVED:** to include her in communication.

13. To consider items for the next meeting – no discussion.

Flooding update, footpath and lottery money.

- 14. Next meeting:** Members NOTED the next meeting as Wednesday 10th September, 7.30pm in Much Marcle Memorial Hall.

Signed:.....*M Barber-Starkey* Date:.....10.09.25

Chair

The meeting closed at 20.50